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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
News Letter

RECORD-BREAKING EXPORTS OF GRAIN

History will record that the United States did a record-breaking job of exporting wheat and other grain during 1945-46. This will be true even if shipping difficulties cause our exports to fall short on July 1 of the very high export goal that was established for the marketing year. We now have procured enough wheat and corn to meet that goal, and shipments of wheat alone from this country for the current year ending June 30 will be the greatest for any one country in history.

This does not mean that the emergency is over. That the need of many countries for help in feeding their population will continue in 1947 and beyond, comes out very clearly in the FAO meetings reported briefly later in this issue. We still must share wheat and other grains. We must reuse fats and oils to the limit of their usability, and turn in salvage fats for other purposes, so that we may meet our export goal for edible fats. We must all make a more serious effort to conserve food and prevent food waste, and to use seasonal abundances of perishable products.

HOME ECONOMISTS FROM THE STATES DRAW UP SUGGESTIONS FOR FOOD EMERGENCY PROGRAM

A small group of home economists were called into Washington from the several sections of the country May 10-12, under the authorization of the Famine Emergency Committee. On May 20 all persons who receive the Nutrition News Letter were mailed a copy (with covering memoranda) of the report these home economists drew up. We hope the suggestions "which individuals and groups working in the field of nutrition and home economics might find helpful in cooperating with the Famine Emergency Program" will have begun to be incorporated into county and local programs by the time this issue of the News Letter reaches you.

Each section of the report—"Subject

Matter" and "Methods"—was prepared for the most part as a "suggestive outline" to be expanded into action programs by home economists and nutritionists who use it. It would seem highly in order for nutrition committee members, with their subject matter background and professional experience, as well as their knowledge of regional and local food habits, to make use of the suggestions so carefully thought out by this special committee.

GARDENING AND PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

The "all-out" emphasis on home food production and on home and community preservation should continue as long as the growing season can be stretched out into the fall months. Successive plantings in victory gardens and continuous preserving of fresh garden and orchard products will help meet the 1946 goal: "Enough food for all."

Two fact sheets have been sent recently to all persons on the Nutrition News Letter Mailing list. One is entitled "Home Food Preservation Program for 1946," and the other "1946 Community Food Preservation Program." Together they stress the importance of "putting up" plenty of food for next winter, whether it be done in the home or in the community center, by canning or by one of the other approved methods.

The location of Community Food Preservation Centers, the services they offer, and the hours they are open should be thoroughly publicized in every locality where they exist. Nutrition committees, especially the county and city committees, may well be a local source of such information. Many nutrition committees are doubtless, again this year, employing various means to stimulate full use of the home kitchen and the community center in preserving garden abundances. (See "Build on Community Experience" in 1946 Community Food Preservation fact sheet and pertinent State items in News Letter issues during 1944, 1945, and 1946.)

FAO MEETING OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

On Monday, May 20, a "Special Meeting on Urgent Food Problems" convened in Washington with 18 nations represented. The conference was called by FAO, and the opening address was by Sir John Orr, Director General of FAO. The purposes of this week of international conferring were several: To review the facts about the present acute food shortage; to consider the prospects for the world-wide food supply in the next 3 or 4 years; to outline the various issues on which decisions must be reached without delay; and to come to some common understanding regarding the solution of the problems, including suggestions as to methods and organizational machinery for following through on decisions reached.

Other speakers at the opening session were Herbert Hoover, Honorary Chairman of the President's Famine Emergency Committee; F. H. LaGuardia, Director General of UNRRA; and Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, who was appointed chairman of the conference. Delegates from the various countries also presented statements from their respective governments, during the other general sessions of the conference. Each of the speakers stressed in his own way the seriousness of the world food situation, and emphasized the fact (as Secretary Anderson expressed it) that "it may be years before the storehouses of the world are full again."

Three committees, each with international representation, worked throughout the week on their respective assignments: (I) World Food Appraisal; (II) Conservation and Expansion of Supplies; (III) Future Machinery. Their detailed reports were adopted with only minor changes at the last plenary session on Monday, May 27. A very important part of the 39-page report of the meeting had to do with the establishment of an International Emergency Food Council to replace the Combined Food Board. The IEFC will operate in close collaboration with FAO and UNRRA. In accepting membership in the Council and its Committees, governments shall make it clear that they accept the responsibilities which membership entails.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

New York.—In April the State Nutrition Committee Chairman sent a letter to the

chairmen of all county and city nutrition committees in the State, urging the assistance of all members "to encourage food economies for the sake of famine relief." Each chairman was asked to get in touch with the county food emergency manager to offer the assistance of the county or local nutrition committee and members in furthering the program already under way. The following sentences are quoted from the State Chairman's letter:

"You who know housekeeping and nutrition can help with talks on practical means for curtailing the use of bread, cereals, and fats. Your cooperation would be helpful in promoting gardens for peace, and in encouraging friends and neighbors to continue the conservation program.

"The need is great, the time is short, and the responsibility falls on all of us. This is perhaps the greatest contribution which an individual can make toward world peace."

The letter also gave advance notice of a Nutrition Institute being planned by the State Nutrition Committee for July 25 and 26, to which each local committee may send two delegates. The program will include practical suggestions for community activities, and reports on the food situation as of midsummer.

IDAHO.—Activities on the importance of immediate action on world food needs have been handled by a subcommittee of the State Nutrition Committee. The subcommittee has prepared information regarding the elimination of food waste in public eating places as well as in homes. This material, together with a statement from a Boise physician recently returned from the European area, has been mailed to the following groups in Idaho: Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions clubs; Exchange, the American Legion, and Legion Auxiliary, and Grange organizations.

OREGON.—The Oregon Food for Famine Relief Committee was organized on March 26, and county committees were set up shortly thereafter, under the leadership of the State Food Emergency Manager. Later the Oregon Nutrition Council (which has assumed responsibilities of the State Nutrition Committee) was asked to cooperate with the program as it was set up and functioning. On April 19 the education committee of the Nutrition Council wrote to all "last recorded chairmen" of county nutrition committees and enclosed material entitled "Food for Famine—How

the Homemaker May Help" which it had prepared. Another enclosure was a suggested list of 11 organizations that might have representation at the county level. The letter suggested that these and other organizations be contacted and urged to present the material and other facts about the famine emergency at their next meeting.

WEST VIRGINIA.—The State Nutrition Committee has had requests from various groups to assist with their nutrition program. For example, a panel discussion group on "Community Nutrition Problems," using State nutrition committee personnel, participated in the Nutrition Day of an Institute held at West Virginia State College on April 23. The following phases of community nutrition were presented by representatives of agencies as noted: The School Lunch Program in West Virginia, by State Department of Education; Methods and Materials in Nutrition Education and Dental Health Program, by State Department of Health; Extension Activities in Community Nutrition Programs, by Agricultural Extension Service.

At the request of the State Medical Association the nutrition committee prepared an exhibit emphasizing the Basic Seven food groups, to be included in the display of scientific exhibits at the State meeting of the Association in Huntington, May 13-15. Pamphlets on the normal diet of children and on the nutritional survey of school children in 3 counties (conducted by the State Nutrition Committee) were also included in the exhibit. A bibliography of nutrition information featuring children's diets was given to interested persons.

KANSAS.—The State Nutrition Committee has received reports from county nutrition committees regarding the attention they are giving to the famine emergency campaign. The general pattern has been to prepare news stories for the local press and to stimulate discussion in organized groups of the specific actions to be taken by individual homemakers.

Reports of county nutrition committees reveal that during the last year about 80 of them established special shelves in libraries for nutrition information. The material displayed on these shelves was checked and changed from time to time.

Three primary objectives of Kansas nutrition committees in 1945 were (1) educational work on the enrichment program,

(2) arrangements for showing of nutrition films, and (3) leadership in nutrition projects, one of which was a "Diet check in grade schools." In arranging for the diet check, the committee obtained the cooperation of school officials in allowing children to play the game "How well did you choose your food today?" The project was also explained to teachers attending county institutes in August. In addition to check sheets for each pupil in cooperating schools, letters of explanation to parents and nutrition pamphlets for follow-up educational work were provided. In some counties, the check sheets were scored to determine how many children had poor, good, or excellent diets, and as the checking continued, later scores were compared to see how many children had improved their pattern of eating. This project has created a great deal of interest, and additional county nutrition committees plan to initiate the program in the fall.

NEW JERSEY.—A constitution which calls for expanded membership of the State Nutrition Committee was adopted at its last meeting. The first meeting of the enlarged committee will be held in the fall. Meanwhile, all members are actively working on the Famine Emergency Program. Members of county and local nutrition committees are serving on county and local Famine Emergency Campaign committees.

The nutrition council announces that the Governor signed the enrichment bill passed by the legislature during the last week of the session. The council is especially gratified that this year's efforts were successful as the bill died in committee last year. The New Jersey bill is based on the suggested bill prepared in 1944 by the Drafting Committee of State officials of the Council of State governments.

OKLAHOMA.—The State Nutrition Executive Committee and the State Nutrition Council have each held a meeting to plan their contribution to the Famine Emergency campaign. The program of the Council's meeting, both in terms of subjects and the agencies and associations represented by the six speakers, was a well-rounded coverage of the world food situation, problems to be solved, and suggestions for their solution. The latter included not only suggestions for homemakers and managers of public eating places but also food processors, manu-

facturers, retailers, and millers and bakers. The service the nutrition committee can render in the "Conserve-food-for-peace" program was also presented, including ways the local committees can help.

County nutrition committees are now holding county-wide meetings to discuss the food situation, the need to conserve food, and ways to reach all homemakers as well as local restaurant and cafeteria managers. A special effort is being made to get the support of the small cafe and cafeteria managers, many of whom are not members of the State Restaurant Association and therefore may not have been reached.

OHIO.—At its February meeting, the State Food Preservation Committee made tentative plans for 11 district food preservation meetings. On March 1 the district chairman and members of the State committee met in Columbus and completed plans for this State-wide emphasis on food preservation. A few days later a letter was sent to all home economists in Ohio announcing the dates and locations of the 11 district meetings, between March 14 and April 18, and urging representatives of every county to attend one of these meetings. The programs were in general the same, and included the following: The morning session was given over to testing pressure canners and gages and discussion of care of canners. In the afternoon a film on freezing foods was shown, after which there was a discussion of community canning for school lunches, the supplies and new equipment available for food preservation, and possible ways of carrying on preservation programs in the local communities.

CALIFORNIA.—The State Food and Nutrition Committee, which the Governor asked to cooperate on the emergency campaign, met on May 8 and planned its program. The committee decided to stress the fact that the United States has made a moral commitment to supply grains to the nations in need, and that it is to our best interests to live up to our commitments. The Governor spoke on a State-wide radio program on May 10, devoting his entire talk to the part to be played by the State Food and Nutrition Committee on the famine emergency campaign. The Committee has received the whole-hearted pledge of all women's

organizations in the State to help channel factual information on the world-wide food situation and on food conservation measures, not only to their members but to every person in the State.

A letter from a little Greek girl with the statement: "I had the last piece of bread day-before-yesterday" was mimeographed in Greek and in English. This has had wide distribution, and will be used also for restaurant table tents, on restaurant menus, and possibly for a black and white poster.

IOWA.—Recommendations for Iowa's 1946 food preservation program were mimeographed early in April and widely distributed. These recommendations were developed in three sections: (1) Objectives of State-wide Food Preservation Program, (2) Organization in the County, and (3) Things to be Considered in a County Food Preservation Program. In connection with the organization of the county for impressing the need for home food preservation on all the people, very complete representation on the committee of all agencies and organizations was urged. Progress reports to USDA County Council were suggested.

NEW MATERIALS (Samples Enclosed)

The bulletin "Home Freezing of Fruits and Vegetables," AIS 48 (published by USDA to supersede AWI 100), speaks for itself. Additional copies are available from Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

The green flyer announcing the how-to-do-it movie in color with sound, entitled "Freezing Fruits and Vegetables," tells how to borrow or to buy this excellent 16-mm. film.

Sincerely yours,



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